Gasbag

READERS LETTERS: New Musical Express, 128 Long Acre, London, WC2E 9QH

IN MY OPINION Elton John's latest album "Honky Chateau" is one of his best — and one of the best records of the seventies. "Think I'm Gonna Kill Myself", "Monkey Cat" and "Mona Lisa's Mad Hatters" being the best tracks.

Now that Elton has produced such a brilliant album perhaps people will stop knocking him. — JANICE PAGET, Clitheroe

CONTINUING the Elton John maxi-single saga . . . . Can't everybody just leave off? If you're going to kick up a fuss about an extra 5p or so, I suggest you get stuffed and stick to Mungo Jerry.

Compared to some of his earlier material, "Rocket Man" ain't so marvellous but it's still well worth every penny . . . And we're still to hear a *bad* John-/Taupin composition. I think poor Reggie and Co. have had their fair share of criticisms this past year or so, so give it a rest. P.S. Mr. James, can I come to tea on Sunday now? — PAULINE, London.

ELTON JOHN'S new LP "Honky Chateau" must rate along with Lennon's "Imagine" as one of the best albums of the year. Good on yer Reg. — B. GAMBLIN, London.

ERIN AWAITS YOU

ALTHOUGH the rumpus over the Night Assemblies Bill has died down, I thought it worthwhile to send another solution to the problem.

Come to Ireland with your rock festivals. Where there are no narrow-minded conservatives to put you down. Where there are thousands of rock fans eagerly awaiting the coming of idols who they never see. Where there are miles and miles of unspoilt beautiful land.

Where three days of good music would do a highly depressed country a lot of good and where the most opposition you'd get would be from wild life. Move now, rockers, into the sea and leave the angels to sink on their bikes and the skinheads anchored by their bovver boots. — OISEN, Ireland.

POUND OF FLESH

WHY IS IT that CBS insist upon releasing tracks from Simon and Garfunkel LP's as singles?

They did this with "Bridge" and now they have issued two tracks — "Me and Julio" and "Congratulations" from Paul Simon's new LP as a follow-up to "Mother and Child Reunion". By the time these tracks are actually released everyone who wants the LP has bought it and consequently there is a very small demand for the "new" single.

Simon (and Garfunkel) LP's are regrettably few and far between and it seems a pity that CBS obviously intend to have their pound of flesh from each new release, even if this threatens to cheapen the artists' name in the process. — STELLA McBAIN, London.

BROKE

TO ALL bands who know what it's like to be poor:

We are six guys trying to form a Hawkwind/Floyd type band and are so poor (we earn on paper a round total of about £2) we cannot afford to buy expensive gear with which to experiment.

If any band has any old, tattered, gear please don't chuck it away — send it to the address below.

It doesn't have to work. We need anything from jack plugs to amps and speaker cabinets. Cast your minds back to when nobody could hear your music. Send us something, please. — Love and Peace, ELECTRIC ELEPHANT, 13 Bryn Glas Terrace, Pyle, Bridgend, Glamorgan.

THANKS

THANKS again for your brilliant "What's On" — surely the next best thing to a personal invitation to a gig. Keep it up. — PETE SALT, Farnham, Surrey.

Cropheads v. Kinks

ONCE UPON a time in days of yore, the noble Kinks verily made a goodly TV special for the enjoyment of the populace. Then Cromwell Beeb ordered a proclamation banning cream cakes, dancing on Sundays, and Kinks' specials, and the populace was severely displeased.

They planned open rebellion against cruel, omnipotent Beeb, but were mercilessly crushed and died horribly.

But they didn't die in vain.

Soon shall come a Merrie Monarch to bestow cream cakes, dancing on Sundays and Kinks' specials. For, as the goodly saying states, a Kinks special, once made, should never be forgotten. We, the populace, demand it for ourselves so as to marvel at the immmortal exploits of Raymond Douglas Davies.

Allow sir, this humble epistle to appear in your goodly tabloid so that others, too, may be induced to our cause. — R. O'DONOVAN, Cheshire.

HONKY, FUNKY, BRILLIANT ELTON

FEST UTD.

WITH THE Bickershaw festival finally proving beyond all doubt that no such festival can possibly make money, would it not be a good idea to move the festivals indoors? For example, they could quite easily be staged in many football grounds up and down the country. This has already been tried with considerable success in some places. I'm sure that many clubs would be only too willing to oblige during the next few months. — IAN ROSS, Leeds.

ROCK SHOWS

NOW THAT Rosko's Sunday Rock 'n' Roll show has finished, isn't it about time that the Beeb had a permanent R 'n' R show? After all, the Hippies have "Sound Of The 70's", there's "Jazz Club" for the jazz fans and "Country Style" and "Country Meets Folk" for the country set.

So why can't just *one* station have just *one* regular spot for rock 'n' roll? After all, there are thousands of Teds, Angels and Rockers around. Rock on. — NIGEL GREENFIELD, Mortlake.

Where are you, Scott?

I'M PRODUCING and hosting a bi-weekly telephone talk-interview programme, "Parson's Penthouse" which is broadcast internationally by Radio Nederland, the Dutch World Broadcasting System.

Would someone at MAM or whatever company Scott Walker is recording for kindly put me in touch with him. I've tried for more than a year. I would like to have him as a "phone guest" on an up-coming show. — F. BRUCE PARSONS. Radio Nederland, PO Box 222, Hilversum, Holland.

LAY ORF

I'VE JUST got home from a thoroughly exhausting and enjoyable gig and I'd like to thank Slade and Status Quo for one of the best gigs I've ever been to, equalled only by T. Rex at City Hall, Sheffield, last year.

These bands aren't above giving a few teeny boppers a good time so why all the snobbishness towards them? Why don't the knockers lay off altogether or at least until they find some constructive criticism? — GILL BURBON, Barnsley.